

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 PM-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4505

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12582

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 11 CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON

KSSAG NKP RTAFB REPEATED FOR YOU ACTION

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 684

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 11

1. SECURITY SITUATION: WHILE KONTUM REMAINS MR 2'S MOST IMPORTANT THEATER OF OPERATION FOR THE TIME-BEING, THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY PICKED UP IN OTHER AREAS OF THE REGION AS WELL DURING THE 48-HOUR REPORTING PERIOD. OF 30 INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR 2 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN NHA TRANG, 11 WERE ATTRIBUTED TO BINH DINH AND 6 EACH TO PHU YEN AND BINH THUAN, WHILE ONLY 5 WERE LISTED FOR KONTUM, AND ONE APIECE FOR PLEIKU AND NINH THUAN. HEAVIEST CASUALTIES DURING THE PERIOD, ACCORDING TO MR 2 HQ, WERE SUSTAINED IN BINH DINH WHERE 8 RVNAF WERE KILLED AND 19 WOUNDED ALONG WITH 13 NVA/VC KIA. TOTAL MR 2 CASUALTIES FOR THE 48-HOUR PERIOD WERE: NVA/VC: 25 KIA: RVNAF: 10 KIA, 45 WIA.

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2. IN KONTUM, RVNAF EFFORTS TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA ARE CONTINUING,

WITH SOME PROGRESS REPORTED ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT. CONSUL PLEIKU/KONTUM REPORTS HEAVY ACTIVITY WEST AND SOUTH OF KONTUM CITY, ALTHOUGH ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES HAVE RESULTED. ARTILLERY SUPPORT CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY, BUT AIR OPERATIONS HAVE CEASED OWING TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS. ACCORDING TO REGIONAL MR 2 HQ, WHOSE ACCOUNTS OF KONTUM ACTION ARE USUALLY INCOMPLETE, RVNAF SUSTAINED 12 WIA IN THE PAST 48 HOURS.

3. WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITY IN BINH DINH, OUR CONSUL REPORTS THAT POST-CEASEFIRE II CAMPAIGN BY ARVN FORCES IN THE PROVINCE, DESIGNED TO EXPAND AND CONSOLIDATE NEW AREAS OF CONTROL, IS RESULTING IN CONTINUING CLASHES WITH COMMUNIST FORCES AND CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES. ARVN 22ND DIVISION COMMANDER, GEN NIEM, TOLD OUR CONSUL THAT THE ENEMY HAS SUFFERED MORE THAN 100 KIA IN NORTHERN PHU MY FIGHTING IN LAST TWO WEEKS. BOTH GEN. NIEM AND DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER, LT.COL. TUONG, INFORMED HIM IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS THAT A GVN ATTEMPT TO SEIZE REMAINING VC-CONTROLLED (AND WELL-DEFENDED) TERRITORY ALONG THE COST IN NORTHERN PHU MY WILL TAKE PLACE FAIRLY SOON.

4. MEANWHILE, THE BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. HOAMU DINH THO, IS REVIEWING PLANS TO RESECURE AND RESETTLE THE SOUTHERN TWO-THIRDS OF THE VINH THANH (HAPPY) VALLEY IN BINH KHE DISTRICT AND THE LARGE DEPOPULATED SWATH OF LAND SOUTH OF THE BA MOUNTAINS AT THE PHU CAT-AN NHON-TUY PHUOC JUNCTION. PF FROM THE THREE AFOREMENTIONED DISTRICTS WILL HAVE ALMOST TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LATTER PROJECT. THEY HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO MOVE SLOWLY INTO THE AREA, WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN LIGHTLY DEFENDED BY THE NVA/VC, AND TO ASSIST THE FORMER INHABITANTS, WHO WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY BEHIND, TO CLEAR THE GROWTH AROUND THE ABANDONED AND LARGELY DESTROYED HAMLETS. CONSUL QUI NHON NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SECTOR S-2 HAS ALREADY RECEIVED A REPORT OF NVA/VC REINFORCEMENTS MOVING SOUTH FROM THE BA MOUNTAIN BASE AREA TO SUPPORT LOCAL GUERRILLA RESISTANCE TO ANY GVN ENCROACHMENT. WHILE GVN FORCES CAN LIKELY OVERCOME ANY FORESEEABLE ENEMY RESISTANCE IN THE AREA, OUR CONSUL BELIEVES THAT LARGESCALE ACTIVITY WOULD RUN COUNTER TO PROVINCE CHIEF'S HOPES THAT THE OPERATION DRAW A MINIMUM OF ATTENTION.

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5. ALSO RIDING THE BAND-WAGON OF CREEPING EXPANSIONISM IN BINH DINH IS TAM QUAN DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR THAN, WHO SAID THAT AN ATTEMPT WOULD SOON BE LAUNCHED TO EXPAND GVN CONTROL IN HOAI HAO VILLAGE WEST OF QL-1 BY SEIZING 500 HECTARES OF RICE LAND AND CURRENTLY UNDER NVA/VC CONTROL IN THAT AREA. MAJOR THAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GVN HAD LITTLE CHOICE SINCE NO OTHER RICE LAND WAS AVAILABLE FOR RECENTLY RESETTLED REFUGEES IN THE AREA TO FARM. ELEMENTS OF THE 6TH RANGER GROUP

WILL SPEARHEAD THE OPERATION. RF/PF WILL FOLLOW AND HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOLDING THE GAINS. MAJOR THAN'S PLAN SQUARES WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF A STATEMENT MADE BY BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF TO CONSUL QUI NHON ON JUNE 26 WHEN COL. THO VOICED HIS INTENTION TO TAKE BACK GRADUALLY, AND AS INCONSISTENTLY AS POSSIBLE, MOST OF WESTERN TAM QUAN BY "LETTING THE PEOPLE GO IN TO FARM AND THEN SENDING TROOPS IN TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE."

6. ATTITUDE TOWARD CEASE-FIRE: CONSUL QUI NHON REPORTS THAT BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. THO, TOLD A GATHERING OF DISTRICT CHIEFS, RD CADRE LEADERS AND VILLAGE CHIEFS ON JULY 7 THAT THE GVN MUST CONTINUE "TO FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS TO WIN THE PEACE." HE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU'S "FOUR NO'S" POLICY WAS STILL IN EFFECT EVEN THOUGH THE PARIS AGREEMENT SUGGESTED THE CONTRARY. IN EXPLAINING THIS APPARENT CONFLICT, HE SAID THAT POLITICIANS OFTEN HAD TO SAY THINGS IN PUBLIC THAT THEY REALLY DID NOT BELIEVE AND HAD NO INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT.

7. ICCS: OUR PROV REP IN PHU BON REPORTS THAT IN RESPONSE TO A JULY 5 MORTARING AND ROCKETING OF A NEW RESETTLEMENT SITE AT PLEI MNANG, THE PROVINCE CHIEF ASKED HIM TO INFORM THE ICCS OF THE ATTACK (CHEO REO IS THE LOCATION OF A SUB-REGIONAL TEAM) AND ASK THEM TO INVESTIGATE. THE PROV REP REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO SO BUT THAT THE TASK WAS REALLY ONE FROM THE GVN ELEMENT OF THE TPJMC. ON JULY 6 AT 0800, THE JMC REPRESENTATIVE DULY INFORMED THE ICCS' CHAIRMAN (INDONESIA) OF THE INCIDENT AND ASKED HIM IF THE ICCS WOULD MAKE AN OBSERVATION. INDODEL AND CANDEL AGREED TO GO BUT HUNGDEL SAID IT COULD NOT GO WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM PLEIKU (REGION III HEADQUARTERS). THE POLES ASSIGNED TO CHEO REO WERE NOT IN PROVINCE.

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8. CANDEL AND INDODEL ARRIVED AT PLEI MNANG AT NOON ON JULY 6 AND WERE SHOWN WHERE THE ROUNDS LANDED, PIECES OF SHRAPNEL, AND THE TAIL FINS OF TWO 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS. A CANADIAN TOLD OUR PROV REP THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH THEY COULD DO ABOUT SUCH INCIDENTS BUT THEIR GOING TO THE SCENE DID SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED. IN ADDITION IT GAVE THEM (CANDEL AND INDODEL) AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT AND SEE A RESETTLEMENT SITE. SIGNED TEARE UNQUOTE APPLING

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